

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ABIDJA 10275 271338Z

41

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01 TRSE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGR-05 EUR-12

/094 W

----- 046005

R 270915Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1470

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ABIDJAN 10275

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, IV

SUBJECT: IVORY COAST: PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET TRAVELS

REF: ABIDJAN 9903 AND 9956

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET DEPARTED THE DEPARTMENT OF SEGUELA DECEMBER 19 TO COMPLETE THE FIRST HALF OF HIS CURRENT TOUR OF THE INTERIOR. DURING THE PREVIOUS WEEK HE HAD VISITED ALL THE SOUS-PREFECTURES, LISTENED TO THE COMPLAINTS AND REQUESTS OF CADRE AND CITIZENRY, MADE PROMISES, GAVE ADVICE, AND IN ONE INSTANCE, GAVE A PARTICULARLY STRONG WARNING TO CEASE SMUGGLING ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA. BY ALL ACCOUNTS THE TRIP THUS FAR IS ANOTHER SUCCESS IN THE PRESIDENT'S YEAR OF THE INTERIOR. END SUMMARY.

1. FROM DECEMBER 11 THRU DECEMBER 18 PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET THOROUGHLY COVERED THE NORTHERN DEPARTMENT OF SEGUELA. IN EACH SOUS-PREFECTURE THE PRESIDENT WAS MET BY AN ENTHUASTIC CROWD LED BY THE NATIONAL POLITICAL PARTY(PDCI) SUPPORTERS, DANCERS AND SINGERS. THIS WELCOME WAS USUALLY FOLLOWED BY A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ABIDJA 10275 271338Z

GENERAL MEETING OF THE PRESIDENT, HIS ENTOURAGE AND AS MANY

OF THE LOCAL CADRE, PARTY MEMBERS AND CITIZENS AS COULD CROWD INTO THE MEETING ROOM. HOUPHOUET WOULD BE OFFICIALLY WELCOMED BY THAT PARTICULAR VILLAGE'S MOST SUCCESSFUL SON-EVEN THOUGH HIS SUCCESSES MAY HAVE BEEN FOUND IN ABIDJAN OR ELSEWHERE- WHO WOULD PRESENT THE COMPLAINTS AND DESIRES OF THE VILLAGE. AN OPEN DISCUSSION WOULD THEN INSUE WHEREBY THE LOCAL CADRE AND PARTY MEMBERS WOULD ATTEMPT TO EXTRACT PROMISES FROM HOUPHOUET OF BETTER ROADS, SCHOOLS, CLINICS AND OTHER VARIOUS PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS. FINALLY PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET WOULD GIVE HIS ANSWERS OF THESE REQUESTS: OUTLINING WHICH COMPLAINTS HE FELT WERE JUSTIFIED; EXTOLLING THE VIRTUES OF A UNITED IVORY COAST AND PDCI; AND ON ONE OCCASION GIVING A WARNING TO THE LOCAL POPULATION TO CEASE THEIR SMUGGLING ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA.

2. ABIDJAN 9956 OUTLINES THE PLANS FOR A SUGAR COMPLEX IN SEGUELA. IN THE SAME SPEECH HOUPHOUET ANNOUNCED PLANS FOR OTHER CENTERS IN KATIOLA, TOUBA AND BOUAFLE. SEGUELA'S SUGAR COMPLEX IS PART OF AN OVERALL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THAT AREA.. IN ADDITION TO THE SUGAR COMPLEX, THE PAVING OF ROADS, IMPROVEMENTS AND ADDITIONS TO SCHOOLS AND CLINICS, AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES ARE TO BE FUNDED OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS WITH A MINIMUM OF FOUR BILLION CFA (\$17 MILLION) IN AID. THE POINT MOST OFTEN STRESSED BY HOUPHOUET WAS THAT THE CADRE AND PARTY IN SEGUELA WOULD HAVE AN IMPORTANT INPUT INTO DETERMINING THE TYPE AND PRIORITY OF AID IT WOULD RECEIVE. WHILE MOST OF THE FUNDS ARE ALREADY COMMITTED TO SPECIFIC PROJECTS, IT WAS CLEAR THAT ENOUGH REMAINS UNCOMMITTED TO ALLOW THE LOCAL CADRE AND PARTY MEMBERS A HAND IN THE DETERMINATION OF HOW BEST IT IS TO BE SPENT. THE EMPHASIS IS ONE OF DECENTRALIZATION OF POWER FROM ABIDJAN TO THE PREFECTURES. THE CITIZENS ARE TO MAKE THEIR DESIRES KNOWN TO THE SOUSPREFETS AND PARTY OFFICIALS WHO IN TURN HAVE THE POWER TO DETERMINE THE COURSE OF DEVELOPMENT EVENTS IN THEIR AREA.

3. IN HIS SPEECH IN KANI HOUPHOUET ISSUED A HARSH WARNING TO ALL INHABITANTS OF THE AREA TO CEASE THEIR SMUGGLING OF INDUSTRIAL GRADE DIAMONDS, A PRACTICE THAT HAS BEEN GOING ON FOR SOME TIME. HE PROMISED THAT IF THEY FAILED TO DO SO WITHIN TWO MONTHS, HE WOULD SEND "THE WHOLE IVORIAN ARMY" TO INSURE ENFORCEMENT OF THE LAWS. EVIDENTLY THE LOCAL SOUS-PREFETS HAVE EITHER BEEN INEFFECTIVE IN CONTROLLING THIS PROBLEM, OR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 ABIDJA 10275 271338Z

HAVE BEEN A PARTY TO IT. IN EITHER EVENT, KANI IS VIEWED BY THE EMBASSY AS ONE OF THOSE SOUS-PREFECTURES WHERE THE NEWLY NAMED MILITARY SOUS-PREFETS CAN EXPECT TO BE STATIONED AFTER JANUARY 1.

4. COMMENT: THE EMPHASIS THROUGHOUT THE VISIT HAS BEEN ONE OF LOYALTY TO IVORY COAST AND THE PDCI. LOYALTY THAT WILL BE REWARDED THROUGH INCREASED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,

BETTER ROADS, SCHOOLS AND CLINICS. FURTHER SUCCESSES IN
POLITICAL UNIFICATION OF THE COUNTRY UNDER THE PARTY AND
GOVERNMENT CADRE CAN ONLY BE A FUNCTION OF THEIR ABILITY TO
DELIVER THE SERVICES THUS FAR PROMISED.THEY WILL HAVE THE
OPPORTUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE THIS ABILITY IN 1975 AND BEYOND.
PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY YACE HAS BEEN AT HOUPHOUET'S
RIGHT SIDE THROUGHOUT THE TRIP, THUS AFFORDING HIM FAVORABLE
PUBLICITY IN THE NORTH. YACE'S FAMILY IS OF THE ALLADIAN
TRIBE IN THE SOUTH. IS IS FELT THAT ONE OF THE POLITICAL
DRAWBACKS TO YACE'S HOPES OF SUCCEEDING HOUPHOUET IS THE FACT
THAT HE IS OF A SMALL SOUTHERN TRIBE THAT HAS LITTLE POLITICAL
CLOUT. TRIPS OF THIS SORT WITH THE PRESIDENT AFFORD YACE
THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE IN THE OTHER REGIONS HIS
POSITION AS THE PRESENT HEIR APPARENT TO HOUPHOUET.
SMITH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROVINCE, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ABIDJA10275
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740375-0929
From: ABIDJAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974129/aaaaahfl.tel
Line Count: 130
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 74 ABIDJAN 9903, 74 AND 9956
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 AUG 2002 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IVORY COAST: PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET TRAVELS
TAGS: PGOV, IV, (HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY, FELEX)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005